

ORIGINAL
(Red)

Subject: Trip Report of May 9, 1985 to the United Rigging Site

From: Robin Aitken , Environmental Engineer
CERCLA Removal Enforcement Section (3HW14)

To: File

On the above date I traveled to the United Rigging Site at the request of Bob Caron to evaluate enforcement options. I arrived on site at 0830 hours. An enforcement log book was begun, and a short videotape taken of the site.

Site History

The Prince Georges County Health Department received an anonymous complaint about the illegal disposal of PCB's at this site. In early May, the state of Maryland executed a search warrant against the company. This execution included the digging of trenches to search for buried waste, impoundment of company records, and extensive sampling.

Sample results indicated high PCB levels in soil, local drainage systems, and in transformers located on site. Maryland requested evaluation for an immediate removal and Bob Caron was flown in from West Virginia on May 8, 1985 in response. Bob activated his \$50,000 fund and began to assess off site migration.

Extensive press coverage occurred on the morning of the 9th, with all of the major television stations providing film crews.

Company Facts

United Rigging is an ongoing and profitable company. It employs about 100 people. This site is its main office.

United Rigging and Hauling 301 937 8510
6700 Ammendale Road
Beltsville, Maryland

President: Chuck E. Sloan

Vice President: Dee Witt C. Sperau

Attorney: Douglas R. Thomas
10601 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
301 937 4250

ORIGINAL
(Red)

Current Status

At the current time, United Rigging is employing a third party defense predicated on the fact that transformers brought onto the site after purchase from PEPCO were supposed to contain no PCB oil. United Rigging left open the door that they might be willing to undertake a cleanup after the extent of contamination survey is complete. Mr. Sloan stated that PEPCO might be willing to remedy any problems associated with its 760 transformers.

Oral notice was given to United Rigging in the evening of the 8th.

The State of Maryland is requesting that only United Rigging be given an Order at this time due to the ongoing criminal investigation. The state contact is Greg Sunberg of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. His telephone number is 301 659 2952.

Mr. Sloan confirmed the burning of PCB soaked insulation. Bob will take limited Dioxin samples in the burning area.

Proposed Strategy

The ten point will be circulating next week. A Unilateral Order will be developed in conjunction with Bob Caron. There is a strong possibility that the company will agree to a cleanup, although without the sampling.

Attachments

Site Sketch
Draft 10 Point
Spill Report

DRAIN

~~DRAIN~~

Copper Strip Area

ORIGINAL
(Red)

50
Transformers
100% PCA

55,000 ppm
soil

750,000 ppm

2672 ppm

DRAIN



~~DRAIN~~

ditch

PERCO
760
Transformers
(35 sampled)
(7 positive)

United
Rigging

NEXT
DOOR
NEIGHBOR

MAIN GATE

REG #1 SPILL NOTIFICATION
2/2/85

INCOMING SPILL REPORT
(COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS)

CASE # ORIGINAL
(Red)

TSB _____

RECEIVED REGION III BY: MZ DATE 5/7/85 TIME: 3:10pm

REPORTED TO NRC BY: Frank Henderson PHONE # (301) 383 6650
ORGANIZATION: MD State

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CITIZEN INQUIRY: _____

_____ N _____

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

NAME: United Rigging + Hauling PHONE # ()

ADDRESS: off G-W Parkway near US Ag. Research Center

CITY: Prince George STATE: MD ZIP: _____

SPILL LOCATION

LOCATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ COUNTY: _____ STATE: _____

NEAREST WATERWAY: tub to Indian Creek

AIR RELEASE: ☐

SPILL DATA

TE: _____ TIME: _____ MATERIAL: PCB

SOURCE AND CAUSE: transformer overhauling AMOUNT SPILLED: _____

WATER: Y ☒ N _____ UNK _____ CONTAINED: Y _____ N ☒ UNK _____ CLEAN-UP: Y _____ N ☒ UNK _____

POLLUTER NOTIFIED: STATE/LOCAL _____ USCG _____ OTHER: _____

EPA NOTIFICATION

DATE, DATE & TIME: USCG _____ WHEELING FIELD OFFICE _____

STATE/LOCAL _____ OTHER TAT

OSC NOTIFIED MZ c/o Chris Pilla

REMARKS: (over)

ORIGINAL
(Red)

5/1-3/85

state entered under search + seizure warrant on ~~5/1-3/85~~

Samples show high PCB in soil on-site and in storm drain.

- 10 acre site

no security

- state backhoed a trench 6 ft deep, found PCB at bottom of trench

State intends to pursue criminal charges

reports of drums/transformers buried on site

- surface of site is stained, and puddles of oil are noticeable on site.

- State Attorney Jane Barnett 201-383-3532

- Frank Henderson will have Greg Sonberg available
201-659-2952

County samples late March
4/17 state samples
5/1-3

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Bob Carron -
Comm. 304. 469-6059
Holiday Inn
304-465-0571

ORIGINAL
(Red)

DATE:

SUBJECT: Immediate Removal Request for the United
Rigging and Hauling PCB Site, Prince
Georges County, Maryland

FROM: Michael Zickler, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Section (3HW22)

TO: James M. Seif
Regional Administrator (3RA00)

THRU: Roland Schrecongost, Acting Director
Hazardous Waste Management Division (3HW00)

MD
Frank Henderson
Greg Smberg -

I. PURPOSE

The enclosed funding request pertains to the United Rigging and Hauling PCB Site. The response action calls for controlling site access and off-site migration of polychlorinated biphenyl contaminated oil and soil. The second phase of the response will consist of an extent of contamination study followed by removal and disposal of contaminated materials.

II. BACKGROUND

The United Rigging and Hauling PCB Site is an active salvage operation located in Prince Georges County, Maryland. The work deals primarily with the acquisition and stockpiling of scrap electrical transformers. On March 1, 1985 the State of Maryland served a legal warrant to gain access and perform onsite sampling. Preliminary analytical data has demonstrated PCB concentrations upwards of 50 to 80 percent. Additionally, significant off-site migration has been detected at levels of up to 2000 parts per million (ppm).

The site which covers approximately 10 acres, is surrounded by a mixed residential/industrial land use. State officials estimated that the local population approximates 5000 inhabitants within one half mile of the site. A recent off-site sample obtained from a storm sewer indicated that PCB contamination is migrating towards a tributary to Indian Creek which is part of the Potomac River Basin. Due to the extent and uncontrolled nature of this site, the State of Maryland has requested EPA assistance to mitigate the immediate threat to the public health, welfare and the environment.

5/9/85
B Carron ~ 10:00 am
St. comment -

III. THREAT

A. HUMAN HEALTH

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the EPA have determined that levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) above 50 parts per million (ppm) present an immediate and significant threat to the public health and welfare. The PCB contamination continues to be tracked off-site by vehicles and visitors to the site. Also, migration of PCB contamination due to heavy seasonal precipitation and blowing dust continues to present a direct contact threat to the public.

PCBs are a group of chemicals which have been demonstrated to cause cancer in animals and are suspect human carcinogens. PCB exposure can result in liver damage, skin pigmentation and chloracne. PCBs can cross the placenta to a fetus and can also concentrate in mother's milk. PCBs have been shown to decrease fertility, yet have increased the amounts of certain enzymes which are found in the liver, lungs and skin. PCBs bioaccumulate, i.e., are retained in human and animal tissues at concentrations in excess of exposure levels.

For known animal carcinogens such as PCBs, any exposure increases the risk of cancer. Using an EPA model for estimating the cancer risk to human from animal carcinogenicity data, ingestion of approximately 400 micrograms of PCBs is equivalent to an excess cancer risk of one in a million.

B. ENVIRONMENT

A large quantity of soil remains contaminated onsite. Preliminary analytical data from the State of Maryland demonstrates PCB concentrations in excess of 50 ppm through a depth of over six feet. The spread of contamination will continue as long as the site remains uncontrolled.

An unnamed tributary to Indian Creek receives runoff from the site via an onsite storm sewer. The State of Maryland has indicated that their analyses have revealed PCB concentrations in excess of 2000 ppm within the storm sewer. Indian Creek lies within the Potomac river drainage basin which has been designated as a high value fish habitat for shad spawning. PCBs will bioaccumulate in all fish species which are exposed to elevated levels of PCB contamination.

IV. ENFORCEMENT

Refer to attachment: Confidential Enforcement Status.

V. PROPOSED PROJECT AND COSTS

The OSC proposes to erect a security fence to restrict access to the contaminated areas, control and prevent continued off-site migration by installation of impoundment structures, perform a comprehensive extent-of-contamination study, evaluate disposal and treatment alternatives and stage, remove and either transport the PCB contaminated materials to final disposal or perform onsite treatment to destroy the PCBs.

Estimated Costs Phase I

Cleanup Contractors (ERCS)	\$ 725,000
(includes fencing, abatement structures, measuring and sampling, and removal/disposal or onsite treatment)	
Technical Assistance Team (TAT)	30,000
U.S. Coast Guard / Atlantic Strike Team	20,000
EPA	20,000

Total Estimated Costs	\$ 795,000
-----------------------	------------

Phase I of this project will include installation of the security fencing and installation of the migration control/impoundment structures. This phase will require two weeks for completion.

Phase II will include the extent of contamination study and evaluation and selection of disposal and treatment alternatives. The preferred option will then be implemented to mitigate the situation. For cost calculation purposes, it was assumed that 1000 cubic yards of PCB laden soil would be removed (1500 tons) and would be transported 500 miles. The costs for this disposal would approximate \$ 375,000. This phase will require from six to eight weeks. The entire Immediate Removal Action will be completed within approximately ten weeks of funding authorization.

VI. REGIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Because ~~the~~ conditions at the United Rigging and Hauling Site meet the NCP Section 300.65 criteria for an Immediate Removal, I recommend your approval of this immediate removal request. The estimated total project costs are \$ 795,000 of which \$ 775,000 are for extramural costs. You may indicate your approval or disapproval by signing below.

APPROVE _____

DATE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

DATE _____